

# NEBRASKA SUPREME COURT

JOHN R. FREUDENBERG  
JUDGE



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December 9, 2025

Senator John Arch  
Speaker of the Nebraska State Legislature  
P.O. Box 94604  
State Capitol Bldg., Rm. 2103  
Lincoln, NE 68509

The Honorable Jim Pillen  
Governor of the State of Nebraska  
1445 K Street  
Lincoln, NE 68509

The Honorable Jeffrey Funke  
Chief Justice of the Nebraska Supreme Court  
State Capitol Bldg., Rm. 2214  
Lincoln, NE 68509

Re: Judicial Resources Commission Annual Hearing

Dear Speaker Arch, Governor Pillen, and Chief Justice Funke:

On November 21, 2025, the Judicial Resources Commission held its Annual Hearing pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 24-1205 (Reissue 2016). Advance notice of the time, place and agenda was published on November 7, 2025. The Annual Hearing was conducted in the Nebraska Supreme Court Courtroom, State Capitol Building, and included the option of virtual conferencing via Zoom for members of the Commission. Members of the public had the option of attending the proceedings in person at the State Capitol or watching the live stream

proceedings from Nebraska Public Media's website. This letter will serve as the Commission's written report on the 2025 Annual Hearing.

### **2025 Annual Hearing**

Hazel Delgado, Director of Research and Data, provided documentation and briefed the Commission on the Caseload Data & Trends, FY2025 Weighted Caseload Reports, Problem-Solving Courts, the Judicial Retirement Forecast, and other factors affecting judicial resources, including: (1) Nebraska population increases, (2) changing court users, (3) available attorneys, (4) changing technology, and (5) Access to Justice issues.

The Commission took up the matters set out in § 24-1205. Pursuant to § 24-1205(1), the Commission took up whether a new judgeship, or a reduction in judgeships, was appropriate in any judicial district. No requests were received. No motion was made to recommend adding or reducing a judgeship in any judicial district at this time.

Pursuant to 24-1205(2), the Commission took up whether to recommend changes to any judicial district boundary or to the number of judicial districts. No proposals were received. No motion was made to change any judicial district boundary or the number of judicial districts at this time.

### **Judicial Vacancies**

The Commission took up whether a vacancy exists due to the retirement of Judge C. Jo Petersen from the county court in the 5<sup>th</sup> Judicial District, effective September 30, 2025. After considering the statutory factors and the testimony received, the Commission unanimously determined that a vacancy exists in the office of the county court in the 5<sup>th</sup> Judicial District and recommended the primary location be Seward, Seward County, Nebraska. After the vacancy was declared, the Nebraska Supreme Court met in special consultation and determined the primary location of such vacancy should be in Seward, Seward County, Nebraska. The judicial nominating process will begin on this vacancy, as provided by law.

The Commission also took up whether a vacancy exists due to the resignation of Judge James G. Kube from the district court in the 7<sup>th</sup> Judicial District, effective October 31, 2025. After considering the statutory factors and the testimony received, the Commission unanimously determined that a vacancy exists in the office of the district court in the 7<sup>th</sup> Judicial District and recommended the primary location to be determined in consultation with the successful applicant. After the vacancy was declared, the Nebraska Supreme Court met in special consultation and determined the primary location of such vacancy should be in Madison, Madison County, Nebraska. The judicial nominating process will begin on this vacancy, as provided by law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John R. Freudentberg", written in a cursive style.

John R. Freudentberg  
Nebraska Supreme Court

JRF/ajj

cc: Corey R. Steel, State Court Administrator  
Joshua R. Shasserre, Clerk, Nebraska Supreme Court  
Members of the Judicial Resources Commission